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Press Release

U.S. RAMPING UP CYCLONE RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

DHAKA, NOVEMBER 26, 2007 – U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Geeta Pasi and 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade commander Brigadier General Ronald L. Bailey met today with Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U. Ahmed to discuss the joint Bangladesh-U.S. operation to deliver badly-needed aid to regions impacted by Cyclone Sidr. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Bangladesh Mission Director, Denise Rollins, USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) Leader Thomas Dolan, and Rear Admiral Carol M. Pottenger also attended the meeting, which was held at the Armed Forces Division in Dhaka. During the meeting, the U.S. and Bangladesh officials agreed on plans to increase delivery of aid to the cyclone-affected regions in the coming days.

Today, a U.S. KC-130 aircraft arrived at Zia International Airport in Dhaka to begin delivering more water purification systems to affected areas. In the coming days, the U.S. plans to assist in the airlifting of 160 tons of goods from existing Bangladesh government supplies.

The USS Kearsarge continues to reach more areas with much-needed fresh water. Today, troops from the Kearsarge used helicopters to begin airlifting 5,000 refillable 5.5 gallon (21 liter) water containers to various locations, including Doblar Char, Bagherat and Barguna districts. In addition, a U.S. Army medical team which has been in-country since early November providing medical support as part of a separate program, has deployed to the Pataukhali area along with medics from the Kearsarge to provide additional medical support to overstretched Bangladeshi resources there. In the coming

days, this medical team plans to visit four different locations in the affected area to provide medical assistance.

The USS Kearsarge, currently off the coast of Bangladesh, is playing a primary role in supporting the U.S. assistance mission. The USNS Concord is in the vicinity of Bangladesh and has re-supplied the Kearsarge, while the USS Essex, originally intended to support the Kearsarge, will instead continue with its scheduled plans.

For further information, please see the U.S. Embassy Dhaka website's Cyclone Sidr Relief page, [www.dhaka.usembassy.gov/cyclone sidr.html](http://www.dhaka.usembassy.gov/cyclone%20sidr.html), or contact the Public Affairs Office of the U.S.Embassy in Dhaka.

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